



U.S. Department of Justice
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District of Kansas

NEWS RELEASE

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KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO TRAVELING IN INTERSTATE COMMERCE TO VIOLATE A PROTECTION ORDER

KANSAS CITY, Kan. – United States Attorney Eric Melgren announced that **Frank Asaro, Jr.**, 55, Kansas City, Missouri, entered a guilty plea on May 24, 2004, before U.S. District Judge G. Thomas VanBebber to one count of **travel in interstate commerce with the intent to engage in conduct in violation of a protection order.**

Melgren said that Asaro admitted at his plea that from February 10, 2004, through February 25, 2004, he talked to or met with an individual that he wanted to hire to seriously assault his ex-wife. This individual was actually an undercover Kansas City, Missouri Police Department detective. Asaro admitted that on February 20, 2004, he met with the undercover officer and offered to pay \$2,000 if the undercover officer would go to his ex-wife's place of employment, severely beat her and cut her face with a knife. Asaro further admitted that he was arrested by law enforcement officers on February 25, 2004, as he got out of the undercover officer's car following a meeting. Asaro admitted that on February 4, 2004, a "Final Protection from Abuse Order" was issued by the District Court of Johnson County, Kansas, that prohibited and provided protection against violence, threats, and harassment by Asaro against his ex-wife.

Asaro faces a maximum of five years in federal prison without parole. Sentencing is set for August 16, 2004.

Melgren commended the excellent work of the FBI and the Kansas City, Missouri Police Department in this investigation and Assistant U.S. Attorney Leon Patton in this prosecution.